

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 5-13 are pending in this application, with Claim 5 being the sole independent claim. Claims 1-4, 14 and 15 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 1-9 and 14-15 were rejected under 35.U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,327,600 (Satoh, et al.). Claims 10-13 were rejected under 35.U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Satoh in combination with U.S. Patent No. 5,671,277 (Ikenoue, et al.). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for the reasons discussed below.

As recited in independent Claim 5, the present invention recites, *inter alia*, the feature of receiving a copyright registration request, which is for registering copyright of data, via a network. Applicant submits that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest at least this feature. The Office Action cites to Col. 18, lines 55-60 and Col. 19, lines 13-15 of Satoh, et al. as allegedly disclosing this feature. Applicant respectfully submits that the cited portion does not disclose or suggest this feature. The cited portion of Satoh, et al. discloses that when a user of a document production unit 3 (shown in Fig. 17) requests use of a portion of a document containing an application-required part, a copyright approval automatic application unit 11 transmits a mail message to a copyright holder or an agent so as to notify regarding usage of the application-required part, and adds a user ID of the user to a table stored in a copyright management information storage unit 6. However, that patent does not disclose receiving a copyright registration request, which is for registering

copyright of data. The unit 11 merely sends a mail relating to *usage* of the work, but not relating to registering a copyright.

Independent Claim 5 also recites, among others, the feature of transmitting a registration fee request to a device that issued the copyright registration request. As discussed above, the unit 11 in Satoh, et al. merely provides notification regarding usage of a work and does not transmit a registration fee request.

Independent Claim 5 further recites the feature of embedding an electronic watermark in data in response to consent to pay the registration fee. Applicant submits that Satoh, et al. also does not disclose or suggest this feature. The Office Action states that embedding electronic watermark data is disclosed at Col. 4, lines 19-24. However, that portion of the patent merely describes that a copyright management information insertion unit 5a (shown in Fig. 1) inserts copyright management information into range information when a document is copied into a document being presently produced by the document production unit 3, and that the range information (shown in Fig. 3) is stored in a copyright management information storage unit 6. See Col. 3, lines 50-55. However, Applicant submits that nowhere does that patent disclose that information is inserted into data as an electronic watermark.

The other cited art also is not understood to disclose or suggest at least the above-mentioned features, and therefore it fails to remedy the deficiencies of Satoh, et al.

The dependent claims are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as the independent claim, as well as for the additional features they recite.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection set forth in

the above-mentioned Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. L. Klock', is written over a horizontal line.

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